

PROPOSED

FOR INTERVIEW ON 4/20/06

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A hinge structure for connecting two members to accommodate movement between an open position and a closed position, said structure comprising:

an elastomeric element extending from one of said members to the other of said members; said elastomeric element molded from a thermoplastic elastomer material; said elastomeric element having a transverse end which abuts, and is attached by molding to, one of said two members; said elastomeric element having another transverse end which abuts, and is attached by molding to, the other of said two members; said elastomeric element having an outer surface that is (1) outwardly exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position, and (2) in tension when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element having an inner surface that is exposed to face away from said two members when said two members are in said open position and that faces inwardly toward said two members when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element inner surface being in compression when said two members are in said closed position; and said elastomeric element exerting a force to urge said two members from said closed position toward said open position, said elastomeric element having two lateral margins which are defined by said elastomeric element, and said elastomeric element being free of structure laterally of said elastomeric element so that said two lateral margins are laterally exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position.